REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-10 and 12-13 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Claims 6-10, 12 and 13 remain withdrawn from consideration. Claims 5-8 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 1 has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record..

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,185,213 (Fujita et al.). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 as currently amended is directed to a recording medium for ink jet recording that has an ink containing a pigment. The recording medium is provided with an ink receiving layer on at least one surface of a substrate. The ink receiving layer has a porous layer including thermoplastic resin particles that have been mutually fused with no particle structure left and pigment particles. The ink-receiving layer and the substrate are fused and the ink receiving layer has gaps formed by the fusion of the thermoplastic resin particles. The amount of the thermoplastic resin in the ink-receiving layer is 40% or less of that of the pigment in the ink-receiving layer. The substrate is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyvinyl chloride resin, polystyrene resin, polycarbonate, terephthalic acid-ethylene glycol-cyclohexane dimethanol copolymer.

In Applicants' view, Fujita et al. is directed to an ink jet recording sheet that has on a film substrate a coating layer which contains a pigment component and a binder component. The pigment component includes prismatic orthorhombic aragonite calcium carbonate having an oil absorption of 30 to 55 ml/100 g in an amount of 20 to 70 weight %. The binder component comprises an epoxy resin and a thermoplastic resin.

In accordance with the invention of Claim 1 as currently amended, a substrate and an ink-receiving layer are fused to increase the adhesion between the substrate and the ink receiving layer. Accordingly, pressing and heat treatments are performed at the same time at a temperature higher than the fusing temperature of the substrate. Advantageously, the strong adhesion between the ink-receiving layer and the substrate provides a recording medium having good durability when used as a medium for cards.

Fujita et al. may teach the use of an inorganic pigment and a thermoplastic resin. The Fujita et al. disclosure, however, is devoid of any suggestion of the feature of Claim 1 of fusing an ink-receiving layer and a substrate therefor. Rather, the examples provided in Fujita et al. appear to require that the substrate be subjected to heat treatment only when it is dried with a hot air oven at 60 degrees for 30 seconds at which temperature it is presumed that the substrate does not fuse. As a result, it is not seen that Fujita et al.'s arrangement that is devoid of any suggestion of fusing an ink-receiving layer and a substrate of a recording medium could possibly suggest the features of Claim 1. It is therefore believed that Claim 1 as currently amended is completely distinguished from Fujita et al. and is allowable thereover.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,576,088 (Ogawa et al.). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Applicants' opinion, Ogawa et al. discloses an ink jet recording sheet that has a support, at least one ink-receiving layer formed on the support, and a gloss-providing layer formed on the ink-receiving layer. The ink-receiving layer consists essentially of a pigment and a binder. The gloss-providing layer consists essentially of a pigment and a synthetic polymer latex as a binder and has a glossy surface with a 75degree specular gloss of at least 25% as stipulated in JIS-Z8741. At least 70 parts by weight in 100 parts by weight of the pigment in the gloss-providing layer are constituted by colloidal particles having an average particle size of at most 300 nm.

Ogawa et al. may teach a recording medium having a support an ink receiving layer and a surface gloss providing layer. As disclosed at lines 34-37 of column 6 in Ogawa et al, however, "Therefore, although the support is usually base paper, it may be a sheet of fibers of a synthetic resin such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, rayon or polyurethane, as long as it has air or gas permeability. ". Accordingly, the support in Ogawa et al. is generally paper and there is no suggestion in Ogawa et al. that the substrate is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyvinyl chloride resin, polystyrene resin, polycarbonate, terephthalic acid-ethylene glycol-cyclohexane dimethanol copolymer as in Claim 1. It is therefore not seen that Ogawa et al. in any manner teaches or suggests the features of Claim 1 with regard to the

composition of the substrate and It is believed that Claim 1 as currently amended is completely distinguished from Ogawa et al. and is allowable.

In Applicants' view, the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. The pending dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the same reasons as Claim 1 and because they set forth additional features of the present invention that further distinguish them over the cited art. Separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the rejections under Section 103 and rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 9,10, 12 and 13 are respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' attorney, Jean K. Dudek, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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